

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 SWF-02

NEA-10 AF-10 IO-14 DRC-01 /217 W

----- 029846

R 101230Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2717

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXOCO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: VISIT OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED--IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES, COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT FIGUERES ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOB HAD SHOWN A FAVORABLE FIEW TOWARD THE PROPOSED FORMATION OF A MULTINATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION INCLUDING THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, MEXICO, ECUADOR, PERU, VENEZUELA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. FIGUERES SAID THIS SECOND COFFEE PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION WOULD ACT IN COORDINATION WITH THE MAJOR PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION, CAFE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MUNDIAL, TO MAINTAIN FAVORABLE PRICES. HE SAID THE TWO

ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT EVENTUALLY MERGE AND NOTED THAT BRAZIL, COLOMBIA AND THE OTHER MAJOR PRODUCERS ARE OPPOSED TO THE INDIVIDUAL ENTRY OF SMALLER PRODUCERS INTO CAFE MUNDIAL. FIGUERES ALSO SAID HE HAD PROPOSED A JOINT EFFORT BY ALL PRODUCERS TO PROMOTE COFFEE CONSUMPTION, FINANCED BY CONTRIBUTIONS OF ONE DOLLAR A SACK. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT HE WAS PROPOSING IMPOSITION OF A SURTAX ON COFFEE EXPORTS, FIGUERES REPLIED THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL BEFORE DECISIONS COULD BE REACHED.

2. PRESS ARTICLES QUOTED "AUTHORIZED SOURCES" AS INDICATING THAT GOB GAVE SOME SUPPORT TO FIGUERES' PROPOSALS BUT THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY AGREEMENT AS TO WHEN OR HOW THEY MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED. PRESS INDICATED THAT GOB REACTION WAS THAT MEASURES TO INCREASE COFFEE PRICES SHOULD BE TAKEN GRADUALLY, DEPENDING ON MARKET CONDITIONS AND THAT ORGANIZATION OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO BE A GRADUAL, STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS.

3. PRINCIPAL THEMES OF FIGUERES' PUBLIC REMARKS ASIDE FROM COFFEE AND PROTOCOLARY BOUQUESTS TO BRAZILIAN PEOPLE AND LEADERS, WERE PROBLEMS FACED BY DEVELOPING NATIONS VIS-A-VIS DEVELOPED ONES. IN AN ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS, FIGUERES REFERRED TO THE LATTER, "...FOR WHOSE PRODUCTS WE HAVE CONSECRATED A VERY GREAT PROPORTION OF THE NATIONAL LABOR, DELIVERING IT CHEAP AND PAYING REALLY DEAR FOR THE WORK CARRIED OUT IN SOCIETIES WE CALL ADVANCED...A DAY'S WORK IN SAO PAULO SHOULD BE WORTH THE SAME AS A DAY'S WORK IN DETROIT." IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS, BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT GEISEL STRESSED BRAZIL'S COMMITMENT TO "POLICY OF COOPERATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE OF OUR CONTINENT", ADDING "WE DO NOT WANT IN ANY WAY TO PREDOMINATE, INASMUCH AS WE DO NOT ACCEPT HEGEMONIES IN...THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LOU--BEYOND REMARKS ON COFFEE, VISIT WAS OF SCANT SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST. FONOFF SOURCE WHO PARTICIPATED IN FIGUERES MEETINGS TOLD EMBASSY THAT DISCUSSIONS PROVIDED A USEFUL EXCHANGE BUT WERE NOT NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOURCE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FIGUERES HAD SUGGESTED A SURTAX ON COFFEE AND SAID THAT GOB DID NOT COMMIT ITSELF. HE COMMENTED THAT ON A PERLIMINARY BASIS GOB FEELS THAT SUCH A TAX WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL. SOURCE SAID THAT OTHER MAIN SUBJECT OF MEETINGS WAS BANANAS BUT NOTED THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS OF ONLY MARGINAL INTEREST TO BRAZIL. HE SAID FIGUERES HAD STATED THAT PROPOSAL FOR TAX ON BANANA EXPORTS HAD RECEIVED GO AHEAD FROM A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED

BRANDS CO. FIGUERES DID NOT MENTION ANY SUPPORT FROM USG.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COFFEE, CUSTOMS DUTIES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL02433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740082-0641
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740453/aaaabvvy.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CS, BR, XM, (FIGUERES FERRER, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005